

THE TYPE LOCALITY OF THE SPHAGNUM FROG *Philogoria loveridgei* (ANURA: MYOBATRACHIDAE). *Memoirs of the Queensland Museum* 51(2): 524. 2005.- The Spagnum Frogs (*Philogoria*) of N NSW and SE Qld (*Kyarranus* of some authors) were revised by Knowles et al. (2004). Using allozyme and mitochondrial nucleotide sequence data supported by multivariate morphological analyses, they recognised 5 allopatric species (2 new).

Their multivariate morphological analyses identified the holotype of *P. loveridgei* Parker, 1940 within the range of variation of *P. richmondensis* Knowles et al., 2004 and considered the former's stated type locality "McPherson Range, 3-4000 ft., S. Queensland" (Parker, 1940) to be sufficiently imprecise that it could be anywhere within the extent of either species. Without genetic data from the holotype or a more precise type locality, and recognising that their multivariate analyses did not completely separate the two species, they maintained nomenclatural stability by continuing with *P. loveridgei* for populations to which the name had "been traditionally applied" (Knowles et al., 2004:65), the taxon from the Border Ranges (although *P. loveridgei* has at various times been considered to include more distant populations now regarded as different taxa; e.g., Heatwole et al., 1995; Cogger, 2000; Anstis, 2002).

Parker (1940) did not indicate a collector or date of collection for the holotype but did provide a chain of evidence, apparently overlooked by Knowles et al. (2004), that associates the holotype with Philip Jackson Darlington, with Lamington National Park, and with further specimens from the type locality.

Parker noted that the holotype (Natural History Museum, London 1947.2.1994) was derived from a series previously reported by Loveridge (1935) as *P. frosti* (now known to be restricted to Mt Baw Baw, Victoria). Loveridge (1935) reported 6 specimens of *P. frosti* (18423-25) in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University from "MacPherson Range, Q" collected by P.J. Darlington in 1932. In his papers on the Australian amphibian and reptile collections in the MCZ, Loveridge (1934, 1935) noted that Darlington visited Australia on the 1931 Harvard collecting expedition, and continued to collect in E Australia, from Sydney to Cape York, in 1932.

Loveridge (1934, 1935) reported 1 reptile species and 3 amphibians in the MCZ, from the MacPherson Ranges by Darlington in 1932: 9 specimens of the skink *Eulamprus tryoni* (as *Sphenomorphus tryoni*) from 3,000-4,000ft (Loveridge, 1934), the 6 *Philogoria* specimens, 11 *Litoria caerulea* (as *Hyla caerulea*) and 3 types of *Crinia darlingtoni* Loveridge 1933 (now *Assa darlingtoni*), stated by Loveridge (1935) as being from "National Park, Q." In his description of the latter, Loveridge (1933) gave the type locality as "between 3,000 and 4,000 feet in the Queensland National Park, MacPherson Range, Queensland, collected by Dr. P.J. Darlington, March 10-16, 1932". Darlington (1953) described a carabid beetle, *Setalis sloanei*, from his 1932 collections. The label on the holotype states "Nat. Park, Q. McPherson Rge Mar. 1932 3-4000ft. Australia Harvard Exp. Darlington" (P.D. Perkins, pers. comm.).

While I have been unable to trace diaries for Darlington's 1931-32 visit (J. Rosado, B.D. Farrell, P.D. Perkins, pers. comm.), it is apparent that his visit to the MacPherson Ranges was via Lamington National Park, declared in 1915, and often referred to in the literature of the time as "the National Park" (Jarrott, 1976, 1990). Not only is there clear evidence that Darlington collected the *Assa darlingtoni* and *Setalis sloanei* types in Lamington National Park, but *Eulamprus tryoni* is

not known to occur further west in the MacPherson Ranges than Lamington National Park (Sadlier, 1998).

It is likely that when visiting Lamington National Park, Darlington accessed the area from O'Reilly's Guest House, opened in 1926 and the only regular point of access to the National Park in March 1932. Access at the time was via Lahey's Road, ascending the Cainbale Range from Stockyard Creek, a trip taking several hours along a track mostly travelled by horse (Jarrott, 1990).

Other localities visited by Darlington in 1932 are (S to N): National Park [= Royal National Park], Megalong Valley, Blackheath, Hartley Vale, Mt Wilson, Salisbury, Barrington Tops, Dorrigo, Cascade (NSW), Vine Creek, Ravenshoe, Millaa Millaa, Lake Barrine, Mt Carbine, Mt Spurgeon, Port Stewart, Coen, Lankelly Creek, and Rocky Scrub (Qld) (Loveridge, 1934, 1935). None of these are near Lamington National Park.

Without evidence that Darlington collected in the MacPherson Ranges other than in Lamington National Park, and recognising a lack of access tracks between Lamington National Park and the Richmond Range (known distribution of *P. richmondensis*), I consider the type of *P. loveridgei* was collected in Lamington National Park, within the known range of the species, and not within the distribution of *P. richmondensis*. Topotype material of *P. loveridgei* may confirm the identity of the typical population.

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